

**City of Belmont
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING APRIL 6, 2011
MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Belmont Parks & Recreation Commission of April 6, 2011 was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Belmont City Hall Council Chambers.

I. ROLL CALL

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair (CC) Andrews, Vice Chair Cheechov, Commissioner (C) King, Davis, Bortoli, and Youth Commissioner (YC) Zakeri. YC Bartee arrived at 7:03 p.m. and C Wright arrived at 7:07 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: C Sullivan

STAFF PRESENT: Parks and Recreation Director (PRD) Gervais, Intern Robyn Marlinksi, Recreation Supervisor (RS) Handley and Secretary (S) Saggau

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 2, 2011

C Cheechov moved, seconded by C Bortoli, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 2, 2011. Vote 6-0 in favor.

YC Bartee arrived at 7:03 p.m.

March 2, 2011

C Bortoli moved, seconded by C Cheechov, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 2, 2011. Vote 7-0 in favor.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION/COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CC Andrews welcomed new Youth Commissioner Pantea Zakeri. She is a sophomore at Notre Dame High School.

PRD Gervais introduced Robyn Marlinski, an intern from San Francisco State University in the undergraduate program for Parks & Recreation & Tourism Administration.

C Bortoli reported on the Senior Advisory Meeting. He noted the new Lunch Program is doing well with better food and service. Attendance has increased.

C Davis complimented staff on the Activity Guide. He suggested the Trail Map be included in the Summer Edition when people are outdoors more. C Bortoli added, and C Davis concurred, that the trail map should be in all of the brochures.

C Wright arrived at 7:07 p.m.

C King questioned if the San Carlos Children's Theater will become the Belmont Children's Theater. PRD Gervais explained the Department has formed partnerships with other organizations including the San Carlos Theater Program in order to provide a theater group for children. Working with the Parks & Recreation Department, San Carlos Children's Theater offered a theater camp last summer at Fox School. In the fall they brought their program to Barrett Community Center which generated revenue for the city and provided a new recreation program for residents. There had been some initial discussions on the changing the name but it has not happened.

PRD Gervais announced Intern Marlinski is leading the Egg Adventure Hunt scheduled for Saturday, April 23 @ 9:00 a.m. at Twin Pines Park. The teen group VOICES will assist with this event.

PRD Gervais stated the 2nd Streets Alive event is scheduled for May 1, 2011 and there will be information available about it at the Farmer's Market on that date.

IV. AGENDA AMENDMENTS

C Bortoli requested that Item 6B be moved up first to accommodate the candidate for the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and the Commission agreed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

b. Appointment of Community Member at Large Representative to the Belmont Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

PRD Gervais introduced Recreation Supervisor Handley and Ray Loya, the candidate for the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

RS Handley explained there is a vacancy on the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. She reviewed the purpose of the Committee and the various representatives that serve on it. There is a seat called the Community Member at Large and their Bylaws state the Parks & Recreation Commission appoints that position.

RS Handley noted this vacancy occurred last July and that it has been announced for the last few months. One candidate has applied for this seat – Ray Loya.

Mr. Loya reviewed his participation at the Senior Center. He has had experience as President for the Belmont Senior Club/AARP and once was an active member of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. He said he would be glad to have the opportunity to serve on the Committee again as he is very oriented toward the senior community and is a regular volunteer at the Center.

C Cheechov moved, seconded by C Bortoli, that Ray Loya be approved as the Community Member At Large. Vote 8-0 in favor.

a. Consideration of Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Initiative for Belmont

PRD Gervais and Intern Marlinski gave an overview of the HEAL Program.

Intern Marlinski explained in 2004 a League of California Cities Resolution encouraged cities to embrace policies to facilitate activities promoting healthier lifestyles and communities including healthy diet and nutrition. This includes the adoption of city design and planning principles so all residents can undertake exercise. In 2006 this expanded to the ILG (Institute for Local Government) and Cities, Counties and School Partnerships to develop a clearinghouse of information to promote wellness and healthier cities. In 2010 the resolution was part of Michelle Obama's campaign to solve childhood obesity called "Lets Move".

Intern Marlinski noted there are 69 cities in California participating in this initiative, which covers approximately 13% of the population. Cities close to Belmont that have adopted the resolutions and policies include Mountain View, Fremont, Brisbane, Emeryville, San Leandro and Burlingame is considering a resolution.

PRD Gervais and Intern Marlinski reviewed the three areas that this campaign is focusing on:

(1) Land Use – Trails, pathways, parks and open space to encourage exercise. Cities could consider including these elements in future planning in their General Plan and their Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. It was noted that seniors are often stuck in hilly communities when they can no longer drive.

(2) Healthy Food – Land space could be used to attract healthy food outlets or retail. Farmer’s Market and the Community Garden provide opportunities for healthy food choices. In addition, the City can look at what is served at the Senior Center and the Preschool Program and providing healthy choices.

(3) Employee Wellness Program – The Human Resources Department could create a program for employees to promote healthy lifestyles.

PRD Gervais noted the City of Burlingame focused on mixed-use transit oriented development so that new housing is built near transit and stores so that people do not have to travel far. He added Belmont could consider this when the downtown is redeveloped.

PRD Gervais acknowledged it is challenging in a community with hills and a lack of sidewalks but the City could start to look at providing complete streets that allow for walking, biking and public transportation. He noted the City currently has a Community Garden and a thriving Farmer’s Market.

Other ways to improve nutrition standards would be to limit food servings to healthy options and switching out vending machines to have healthier choices.

C Cheechov stated she has no objection to advertising the benefits of healthy eating but did express concern with restricting foods that people can choose from. She questioned why Parks & Recreation would be involved in the food product choices.

C Wright asked if this presentation would be going to the City Council. PRD Gervais explained he was providing information on this initiative and to see if this is right for the Belmont and if certain elements of this program would work for this community.

C Bortoli said he liked the idea but noted it would be up to the City Council if the City wants to move in this direction and that other Departments including Public Works would need to be a part of this. He added he has served on the Senior Mobility Steering Committee which looked at walk ability in Belmont and at the time the Public Works Department did not seem interested. He noted the Public Works staff has changed so maybe a more coordinated effort would get the City Council to move in this direction.

C King commented it appears to be getting one step closer to Belmont banning Happy Meals. She noted Parks & Recreation is doing their part by providing trails, playgrounds and parks. She was not in support of making recommendations to employees on how to eat and exercise.

C Wright stated she sent an invitation to the Commission to the first Healthy Communities Forum. She has been working with Sustainable San Mateo County and they cosponsored this event with the Sierra Club. They had a presentation on walk ability and the needs for seniors who no longer have cars. She noted that these solutions for seniors would also be good for children and everyone would benefit if they are able to walk to destinations. She added she would like for the community to be more engaged in talking about this topic.

C Davis applauded the goal of this program but had concern about the staff time needed for it and if it is overlapping things already being done. He noted the program makes sense but it could be included as part of the Master Plan. He added if the City Council decides they want to participate in this initiative the Commission could come up with a few items to include.

C Bortoli agreed with some of the Commissioners that they do not want to get the Big Brother syndrome involved. He noted most people have already changed their lifestyles over the years. He spoke in support of promoting choices and noted that options are already in place and maybe these could be emphasized to encourage better choices.

C Andrews noted the City already attracts healthy food retailers and there is a Farmer's Market and Community Garden. There are already opportunities in place for people to purchase fresh food and questioned if a policy or resolution is needed. PRD Gervais acknowledged the City is doing some things to offer healthy choices but there is more that could be done.

YC Zakeri commented that it is important to give the Preschool Program healthy options but it is also important to teach them to balance their options.

C Wright noted the benefit of saying that they are behind this initiative is to help provide guidance and make people aware of these principles.

Ray Loya – applauded PRD Gervais’s efforts for this idea. Mr. Loya picks up pastries for the Senior Center but does not like to see seniors eat too much of them. He spoke in support of providing healthy options. He suggested the Community Garden donate any abundance of produce to the Senior Center.

PRD Gervais agreed it would be a good idea to put up a sign at the Community Garden that they could donate produce to the Senior Center.

Chair Andrews reviewed the options for the Commission to consider.

C Bortoli suggested that it might be helpful to see what other cities have done. He added he was okay with Belmont issuing a resolution to encourage healthy eating and active living.

C King asked if the City Council has asked the Commission to look at this initiative. PRD Gervais explained it has not been presented to Council; it was brought to the Commission first to get community reaction.

C Davis recommended the Commission take no action and C King agreed.

Following discussion the Commission took a vote to see if they would like it brought back to the Commission or no action. The vote was tied 4/4.

c. Commission Reorganization

PRD Gervais requested the Commission appoint a Chair and Vice Chair. Following that the Commissioners would select their Liaison and Park Assignments.

C King nominated Vice Chair Cheechov for Chair. Seconded by C Davis. There were no other nominations. ***C King moved, seconded by C Bortoli, to close nominations.*** Vote 8-0 in favor.

C Cheechov nominated C Davis for Vice Chair. C Wright nominated herself.

Vote was 4 for C Davis and 4 for C Wright.

A second vote was taken.

Final Vote: C Davis – 5, C Wright 3

The Commissioners filled the liaison and park assignments as follows:

| <u>Liaison</u> | <u>Member</u> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| City Council | King |
| School District | Davis |
| Planning Commission | King |
| Senior Advisory | Bortoli |
| Park Boosters | King |
| Cottage Auxiliary | Cheechov |
| Community Players | King |
| Bicycle Advisory | Bortoli & Sullivan |
| Youth Sports | Bortoli & Andrews |
| Open Space | Davis, Bartee & Sullivan |
| Paper Trails | Wright & Sullivan |
| Sports Advisory Committee | Andrews & Bortoli |
| Green Committee | Wright & Zakeri |
| <u>Parks</u> | <u>Member</u> |

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Water Dog Lake & Hidden Valley | Sullivan, Davis & Bartee |
| Fox Field & Hallmark | Bortoli |
| Belameda | Wright |
| O'Donnell & Alexander | Wright |
| Twin Pines | King & Cheechov |
| Ralston Field | Bortoli & Andrews |
| Sports Complex | Bortoli & Andrews |
| McDougal | Andrews |
| Davey Glen Park | Andrews, Wright, Bartee & Zakeri |
| College View & Wharton | Andrews & Bartee |
| Central Field | Andrews & Bartee |
| Barrett Community Center | King & Sullivan |
| Cipriani Park / Dog Park | Cheechov |
| Nesbit Field | Sullivan, Reimche & Zakeri |
| Semeria | Wright & Sullivan |
| Wakefield | Davis & Sullivan |
| Hastings Tot Lot | Sullivan |

The Commission decided to remove Ralston Ranch from the Parks list.

C Cheechov questioned why the year the Commissioners were appointed and when their terms expire was included on the Staff Report. PRD Gervais replied it was to provide additional information.

C Andrews turned the meeting over to Chair Cheechov. CC Cheechov commended C Andrews on a job well done.

VII. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Questions and Comments

PRD Gervais stated the Tree Ordinance will go to the City Council on April 26, 2011. There will also be Proclamation for Arbor Day at that meeting.

PRD Gervais noted there will be a Tree Planting on April 30, 2011 at Cipriani Park.

PRD Gervais stated he met with the Belmont Rotary Club at Barrett Community Center and they will purchase the swings for the playground. He noted demolition of the old playground will begin on April 23, 2011.

In response to C King's question PRD Gervais said he did ask the Rotary Club if they want to replace the plaque at the Belmont Sports Complex and they are looking into it. If replaced, it would probably not be as large as the previous plaque.

PRD Gervais reported the work at the Sports Complex for the new bike bridge is nearly done. The path from the bridge to the parking lot will be fixed as part of this project.

PRD Gervais said the Request for Proposals for the synthetic turf project architect has been sent out and there has been a lot of interest in this project.

PRD Gervais noted the Davey Glen Park project was presented to the Planning Commission on April 5, 2011. He noted there was good feedback from the Planning Commission and suggested the Commission view the meeting on the City's website.

PRD Gervais said he would be meeting with a representative of Davey Tree Company later in the month to see if they would donate tree work for Davey Glen Park.

PRD Gervais left the room.

Secretary Saggau announced there will be Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Semeria Park on Saturday, May 7, 2011.

PRD Gervais returned to the meeting.

C Bartee announced there will be Casino Royale event and the Commissioners are invited to attend and bring one guest. This is a fundraiser for School Force. The Commission received an email with this invitation.

PRD Gervais added School Force will also be having a City-Wide Garage sale on April 7 and 8.

B. Future Agenda Items

Paper Trails Tour

Davey Glen Park

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Jonathan Gervais

Parks & Recreation Director